



**Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands  
COMMUNITY DESIGN MEETING #1  
NOTES**

Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 6:30 - 8 pm  
Atlantic City Nursery,  
5513 S Cloverdale Street, Seattle, WA 98118

Over fifty community members attended the first community design meeting for the Opportunity Fund renovation project of Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands. We opened the meeting with introductions from both Seattle Tilth and the Friends of Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands. The Berger Partnership and Anchor QEA presented background studies and the site analysis. After the presentations the floor was open to questions and comments about the project. The community provided great feedback for improving the urban farm, wildlife habitat, and access to the site. Parks and the Berger Partnership will compile all input from the community to inform the design concepts for the renovation of the open space. The presentation and discussion of concept plans will be presented at the next community design meeting at the Atlantic City Nursery on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting Comments:**

- What are the Economics of Urban Farming?– Goal is to incorporate Training and Partnerships onsite.
- Consider Solar Panels on any of the structures through Community Solar – City Light
- Incorporate the possibly donated Musical trellis
- Add Fruit trees – buffers – Heirloom trees/fruit
- How much area is there for in ground growing after the buffer averaging?
- Incorporate children into the process and stewardship of the space
- Include the Seattle Youth Garden Works
- Design and program interface
- Add a P-Patch/Community Gardening
- Have all different communities farming – Community building
- Soil Constraints?
- Organic certification? Buffers?
- Path connection – CPTED – Lock at night?
- Explore the ‘Growing Power’ model
- Sense of Place and Art

**Email:**

- Parking: outer band of the property on the north side be dedicated to (sufficient) parking, so as to be most practical, least disruptive to the neighborhood, the visitors, and the farm.
- Paths: a wide path (tractor wide at least) be created just inside the existing tree hedges that outline the property, a perimeter path much like the one on the east side of the arboretum, with enough east-west paths crossing over the middle to provide practical access to all points, maybe with bridges over the wetland (over protective culverts?) .
- Structures: versatile buildings that house offices, expandable/divisible meeting rooms, storage, kitchen(s), bathrooms, rest and caretaker space, and even sales space -- buildings that are well insulated; well plumbed, hopefully connected to water catchment structures; and well wired, hopefully energized at least in part by solar and wind.
- Restrooms – at minimum toilets and clean up facilities -- also in at least the four quadrants of the property. No use wasting worker time AND creating discomfort making people walk the length of the

property to get to a single bathroom location. If plumbing is an issue, consider composting toilets and cleaning basins with Purell dispensers. Consider placing several water reservoirs at intervals throughout the property for irrigation and washing up as well.

- The greenhouses are a wonderful asset. Care should be taken to preserve them, and even to add to and improve on the existing ones. Consider Elliott Coleman's design (detailed in, I think the book Four Season Harvest) of *moveable* greenhouses that provide both for year round harvesting AND for refreshing the land by allowing it to experience air and weather on a rotating basis.
- SIGNAGE: Signs are needed both at the entrance/staging area of the property and in the particular areas, saying what is where (since plants and plans change, signs should be adaptable).
- PERMACULTURE: I'd like to see this principle applied in the overall layout of the farm, in the design and placement of structures, and in the plantings.
- Supporting wildlife (bugs, birds, maybe even beavers!), with, for example, *hedgerows* between farm sections, plant canopy layering, native plants along the boundaries, an apiary and bat houses on the safest ends of the property for the creatures and visitors, brush pile sections protective of ground birds, etc.
- Teaching sections as well as production oriented sections. The teaching sections would illustrate various types, techniques and principles of gardening, such as companion planting, plant guilds, orchards, espalier, variety trials, culturing, vertical gardening, a native plant section, how to treat a wetland, if possible, so it's productive as well as preserved (e.g. camas root and other native food plants?).
- Create a buffer between the chain link fence and my property. Would you consider planting a tall hedge of arborvitae or other evergreen that will bring back some privacy, cut down the noise, and keep the blackberries and weeds from climbing up the hill?
- Keep the fences.

**Budget:**

The total budget for the renovation is \$500,000. Funding for this project is provided through the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund. The project budget cover all costs associated with the project including administration, design, permits, bidding and construction.

Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands Timeline	2012 Quarters			2013 Quarters			
	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Pro View</b> – Internal Parks review of proposed project elements.	★	★	★				
<b>Community Meetings</b> – Early discussions with community members and presentation of site analysis.	June 19						
<b>Community Meeting #2</b> –Presentation of schematic designs and public input.		July 28					
<b>Community Meeting #3</b> –Presentation of schematic design.		Sept 13					
<i>Schematic Design Complete</i>		★					
<b>DPD Permit Review</b> – Submittal and Review			★				
<b>Pro View Technical Review</b> – Internal Technical Review of 65% Construction Drawings			★				
<b>Pro View Technical Review</b> – Internal Technical Review of 95% Construction Drawings			★				
<i>Design Development and Construction Drawings Complete</i>				★			
<b>Construction</b>					★	★	
<b>Project Close Out</b>							★

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